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From observations on February 15th, 16th, and 17th, by the writer, an orbit was computed by Professor LEUSCHNER and Mr. SEARES, of the University of California, and the following elements obtained:

$$T = 1896, \text{ January } 31.79$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 358^\circ \quad 20' \\ \Omega = 208 \quad 48 \\ i = 155 \quad 43 \end{array}\right\} \text{Mean Eq. } 1896.0$$

$$q = 0.5874$$

The comet's apparent motion increased rapidly as it approached the Earth. Its nearest approach occurred on the 25th inst., and its apparent motion is now decreasing.

The comet at discovery, on the 15th, was at least twice as bright as Comet *c*, 1895, its light being about equal to that of an eighth-magnitude star. It was quite large, with a decided condensation in the head, but no stellar nucleus could be seen. It had a short, faint tail, which had almost disappeared a few mornings later.

The comet is now far enough north to be visible in the evening after sunset.

There is some similarity between the elements of this comet and those of 1855 II. A series of photographs has been secured by Mr. A. L. COLTON.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, February 27, 1896.

BRIGHTNESS OF COMET *a*, 1896 (PERRINE).

At the time of discovery of this comet, on February 15th, I estimated its brightness as about equal to that of an eighth-magnitude star. Its theoretical brightness increased to about 1.32 on February 25th, since which time it has been (theoretically) decreasing rapidly. On March 10.5 Gr. M. T. its brightness is computed to be about 0.23 that at discovery. To-night I examined this comet for the first time in two weeks, and was surprised to find it brighter than at discovery. It is certainly as bright now as a seventh-magnitude star, and seems a little more condensed.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, March 10, 1896.

REMARKS ON THE PROGRESS OF CELESTIAL MECHANICS SINCE THE MIDDLE OF THE CENTURY, BY DR. GEORGE W. HILL.

The Presidential Address delivered by Dr. GEORGE W. HILL before the New York Mathematical Society, on December 27th, 1895, has been reprinted in *Science* for March 6, 1896. Its title is given here, in order to call the attention of those of our members who are interested in celestial mechanics to a *resumé* of its history since 1850 (especially to an analysis of the new methods of GYLDÉN and POINCARÉ) from the hand of a master.

E. S. H.

A SMALL CRATER IN *CYRILLUS* DISCOVERED ON LICK OBSERVATORY PHOTOGRAPHS BY PROFESSOR WEINEK.

Professor WEINEK continues to find new craters in his enlargements of the negatives taken at the LICK Observatory, of which the following may be taken as an example:

In his enlargement of the negative taken at the LICK Observatory on June 27, 1895, Professor WEINEK found (on January 10th of this year) a new crater, about 1.1 *km.* = 0.7 English miles in diameter.

M. GAUDIBERT (on January 20) writes: "This evening from five to seven o'clock I have seen, most beautifully, the craterlet on the top of the central mountain of *Cyrillus.* At five hours I could see only half of it, the rest being still in shadow. At seven hours the whole was quite plain and seen very easily with my 260 *mm.* telescope. It was seen also with the six-inch aperture."

The map of the Moon on a scale of ten feet to the diameter, made by Professor WEINEK by direct photographic enlargement from negatives taken at the LICK Observatory (and also from negatives taken at the Paris Observatory), is now well under way, some 450 enlargements being on hand. E. S. H.

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The instruments mentioned as being made, by Mr. SAEGMÜLLER, for the College of Notre Dame, are in fact in course of construction for the private observatory of Mr. LUCIUS HUBBARD, of South Bend, Indiana. E. S. H.